

Proposed Plan for Tracking Short-run Changes in the  
Tone of Economic Activity Associated with  
National Defense Emergencies

CCA 1010-101

Types of Information Required

I. Unusual consumer buying

A. Food

1. Census: Weekly retail sales - regional information and interpretation
2. - BLS: Checks for bare shelves, etc., in CPI surveying
3. - Agriculture: spot-checks of supermarkets

B. Other consumer buying

1. Fed: department store sales weekly components?
2. Autos: 10 day series from AMA
3. Census: weekly retail sales

C. Housing

1. Weekly FHA applications
2. Contacts with private organizations - NAHB, S&L Ass'n
3. FNMA readings on secondary mortgage market.
4. FHA, VA, FNMA, Farmers Home to request reports from regional offices on any flurry of activity

D. Financial flows

1. Savings bank, S&L Ass'n., deposits and withdrawals
2. Treasury - savings bond sales and redemptions.
3. Federal Reserve - consumer credit.

## II. Domestic business activity

### A. Financial

1. - Requests for loans from SEA, ARA.
2. - New issues SEC.
3. Fed. Reserve on bank loans.
4. - Stock prices, interest yields, etc.

### B. New orders - special efforts to sample more frequently. - Commerce

### C. Weekly production for steel, autos, oil, etc.

### D. Private contacts with purchasing agents groups, etc

### E. Watching the financial press and tracking down reports of unusual activity (price movements)

### F. Daily activity figures for livestock, other commodities

## III. Prices

### ✓ A. 22 commodity daily spot prices

1. - Agriculture on farm
2. BDSA on industrial
3. Interior on minerals.

### B. Retail prices

#### 1. - Agriculture spot-checks?

#### 2. - CPI step-up?

#### 3. ~~Auto~~ Auto discounts? (Where does Commerce get estimates of average new car prices?)

#### a. - Used car prices.

C. WPI weekly index.

D. Imported primary commodities

#### IV. Foreign

A. London gold sales and price, exchange rate movements, forward discounts on foreign exchange.

B. Foreign travel

C. Short-term capital movements

1. Foreign deposits in U. S. banks private and official.

2. U. S. gold sales.

D. Foreign stock price and interest rate movements.

#### V. Defense activity

A. Procurement changes

#### Assignment of Responsibility

Agencies to submit semi-weekly reports covering quantitative and qualitative information and interpretation. Primary agency assignments as follows:

Labor on Prices, assisted by Agriculture, Commerce (RDSA), Interior.

Commerce on Consumer non-food items, assisted by Fed

Commerce on Business activity (other than financial); assisted by Agriculture

Agriculture on Consumer food-buying, assisted by Commerce (Census)

and Labor.

HHFA on housing.

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Treasury on Consumer financial activity assisted by Fed. FHLBB.

Treasury on Business financial activity, assisted by Fed. SBA, ARA.

SEC.

Fed on International aspects, assisted by Export-Import Bank.

Treasury, Commerce.